

CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES  
HUMS 1005  
2018 WINTER  
“EARLY CULTURES”

**Instructor: Bernhard Leistle**

**Office: Loeb C 775**

**Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., or by appointment**

**Email: [bernhard.leistle@carleton.ca](mailto:bernhard.leistle@carleton.ca)**

**Phone Number: (613) 520 2600 x 1955**

**Course meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.  
303 PA**

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**Course Description:**

This is an introduction to cultural anthropology for students in the humanities. The course is based on the idea that every understanding of other cultures, past or present, inevitably reflects back on the understanding of one’s own culture. Cultural anthropology is presented as the academic discipline that confronts the relationship of self and Other in an exemplary manner. Students will be introduced to traditional concerns of anthropology, exemplified by classical texts. They will also learn about the perspective underlying anthropological research, thus connecting cultural anthropology with philosophical questions. Finally, students are introduced to fundamental theoretical concepts and learn how to apply them in anthropological analyses of concrete materials.

**Learning objectives:** 1. To create an awareness in students of the role of culture in human life; 2. To introduce them to some of the theories and methods of cultural anthropology; 3. To enhance their ability to apply abstract concepts to understand concrete empirical realities; 4. To enable students to see their own cultural reality from another perspective.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):**

**All readings** will be made available by the library on the CULearn webpage of the course (if you scroll down on the page, on the bottom left you see a link “View the course in Ares”. Click the link and you will find the readings).

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

In order to do well in this course, students must do the usual: attend class and read the assigned literature.

Grades are based on various assignments:

- a **quiz** on Jan.30, type short question and answer. **Value of total grade is 10 %.**
- a **midterm exam** of the same type on Feb.27, **value 20%.**
- a **final paper** of 2000 words, **value 40%, due on the last day of classes, April 09.**
- written responses** to three of the assigned readings, app. 500 words each. **Value 20%.**
- attendance/participation marks 10%**, based on a variety of short in-class assignments.

**Submission:** All assignments are to be submitted in class, at the beginning of the session. In the case that a student is prevented by circumstances like illness to come to class, work can be submitted into the dropbox of the department of sociology and anthropology, located in the door of the main office, in Loeb B 750. In these cases, a doctor's note is required.

## **Class Schedule**

Week 1: Jan 09, Jan 11 **Introduction – The Anthropological Perspective**

Readings: Horace Miner "Body Rituals among the Nacirema"

Takeyuki Tsuda 2015. "Is Native Anthropology Really Possible?" *Anthropology Today* 31 (3), 14 - 17

Week 2: Jan 16, Jan 18 **Theory I: Signs, Metaphor and Culture**

Readings: Marcel Danesi, *Sign, Thought and Culture*, ch. 2 "The Sign"

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors we Live by* (Selections)

Week 3: Jan 23, Jan 25 **Fieldwork and Fieldwork Experience**

Reading: Bronislaw Malinowski 1922. "Introduction" to *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*

Janet McIntosh. 2004. "Maxwell's Demons: Disenchantment in the Field."

*Anthropology and Humanism* 29 (1), 63 – 77

Week 4: Jan 30, Feb 01 **Interpretation and Ethnography**

Reading: Clifford Geertz 1973. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" in: *The Interpretation of Cultures*

**Jan 30 Quiz 10%**

Week 5: Feb 06, Feb 08 **Witchcraft and Rationality**

Readings: E.E. Evans-Pritchard "The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events"

In: *Witchcraft, Oracle and Magic among the Azande*. 63 – 83

Jeanne Favret-Saada 2010 [1981]. "The Way Things Are Said" In: Antonius Robben and Jeffrey Sluka *Ethnographic Fieldwork. An Anthropological Reader* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.),

528 – 539

Week 6: Feb 13, Feb 15 **Ritual and the Body**

Readings: Victor Turner 1967. "Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage"

In: *The Forest of Symbols*, 93 – 111

Bernhard Leistle 2006. "Ritual as Sensory Communication. A Theoretical and

Analytical Perspective" In: Klaus-Peter Koepping, Bernhard Leistle, Michael Rudolph.

*Ritual and Identity*, 33 - 73

**Feb 19 – 22, Winter Break, no classes**

Week 7: Feb 27, Mar 01 **Theory II Performance**

Reading: Edward Schieffelin "On Failure and Performance -Throwing the Medium out of the Séance. In : Laderman, Carol/ Roseman, Marina 1996. *The Performance of Healing*. London: Routledge, 59 – 89

**Feb 27 Midterm 20 %**

Week 8: Mar 6, Mar 08 **Art and Propaganda**

Reading: Walter Benjamin "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" in *Illuminations*

Film Comparison: Leni Riefenstahl's "Triumph of the Will" and Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator"

Week 9: Mar 13, Mar 15 **Gender**

Readings: Emily Martin *The Woman in the Body*, Ch. 3 "Medical Metaphors of Women's Bodies", 27 – 53

Ellen Fein and Sherry Schneider *The Rules* (Selections)

Week 10: Mar 20, Mar 22 **Internet and Social Media**

Readings: Kenneth Goldsmith 2016. *Wasting Time on the Internet*. Introduction: "Let's Get Lost", 1 - 27

Tom Boellstorff 2008 *Coming of Age in Second Life*. Chapter 1 "The Subject and Scope of this Inquiry"

Week 11: Mar 27, Mar 29 **Illness and Healing**

Readings: Calabrese, Joseph D. "Clinical Paradigm Clashes" in: *Ethos* 36 (3), 334 - 353

Paul Brodwin "Symptoms and Social Performances: The Case of Diane Reden" in: Mary-Jo Del Vecchio Good et al *Pain as Human Experience*, 77 - 99

Week 12: April 3, April 5 **Trobriand Cricket – A Case Study in Postcolonialism**

Reading: Jerry Leach 1982 "Socio-Historical Conflict and the Kabisawali Movement in the Trobriand Islands". In: R.J May (ed.) *Micronationalist Movements in Papua New Guinea*

Film: J. W. Leach and G. Kildea *Trobriand Cricket – An Ingenious Response to Colonialism*

Week 13: April 9 **Conclusion**

**Final Paper due (40%)**



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## Grading System at Carleton University

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office **no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;** and
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and in cases of illness by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)